



American Citizen Services Unit
U.S. Embassy Santo Domingo
Warden Message



TO: U.S. Citizens

FROM: ACS Unit

DATE: February 12, 2010

SUBJECT: Demonstrations in Samana

The following Warden Message is being transmitted to alert U.S. citizens to demonstrations in the town of La Belle on the Samana peninsula.

The Embassy has received reports of individuals protesting on the streets of “La Belle,” a small town on the road just east of Samaná. They are also burning tires and throwing rocks at passing vehicles. At last report, the Dominican National Police were in the process of dispersing the crowd. The demonstration is reportedly to protest the lack of electricity in the region. There is no further information on whether or not this protest will be ongoing.

The Embassy’s Security Office has warned Embassy personnel who may be traveling through La Belle this weekend to be aware of the situation, and if possible to avoid the area to prevent putting themselves in a potentially dangerous situation.

Demonstrations take place in the Dominican Republic from time to time in response to world events or local developments. American citizens are reminded that demonstrations do not generally occur in areas frequented by tourists and are generally not targeted at foreigners. American citizens should be aware, however, that even demonstrations intended to be peaceful can turn confrontational and possibly escalate into violence. American citizens are therefore urged to avoid the areas of demonstrations if possible, and to exercise caution if within the vicinity of any demonstrations. Street crowds should be avoided. In urban areas, travel should be conducted on main routes whenever possible.

The U.S. Embassy will update this warden message if new information becomes available. American citizens should stay current with media coverage of local events and be aware of their surroundings at all times.

American citizens traveling or residing overseas are encouraged to register with the appropriate U.S. Embassy or Consulate on the State Department’s travel registration website at <https://travelregistration.state.gov>.

For any emergencies involving American citizens, please contact the American Citizens Services (ACS) Unit of the U.S. Embassy. The Consular Section of the Embassy is located at the corner of Cesar Nicolas Penson Street and Máximo Gómez Avenue, Santo Domingo, D.R.; telephone 809-731-4294; after hours emergency telephone 809-221-2171; ACS unit fax 809-689-6142; e-mail acssantodom@state.gov; web page www.usemb.gov.do.